

AMENDMENTS

In the Claims:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A computer system for efficiently executing instructions of computer programs, comprising:

processing circuitry having a pipeline, said pipeline configured to execute instructions from one of a plurality of programs, said processing circuitry configured to stop executing said one program during a first context switch in response to a first context switch command and to resume executing said one program during a second context switch in response to a second context switch command;

cache memory;

computer memory having a plurality of addresses; and

memory control circuitry coupled to said processing circuitry, said memory control circuitry configured to store, in response to said first context switch command, in computer memory, data written by said pipeline during execution of said one program and to store an indicator indicative of ~~how often~~ whether a portion of said cache memory said data is ~~was~~ accessed by the processing circuitry during a particular time period prior to said first context switch in executing said instructions from said one program, said memory control circuitry, in response to said second context switch command, configured to identify one of said addresses of said computer memory that is storing said indicator corresponding to said data previously written by said pipeline during execution of an instruction of said one computer program prior to said first context switch, said memory control circuitry further configured to make a determination, based on said indicator, whether said data was accessed by the processing circuitry in the particular time period prior to the first context switch for

determining whether to preload said data into said cache memory in response to said second context switch, to retrieve said data, based upon said determination, from said computer memory in response to said second context switch command, and to store said retrieved data in said cache memory based upon said indicator.

2. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein said processing circuitry is further configured to execute instructions of another of said computer programs in response to said first context switch command.

3. (Canceled).

4. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein said memory control circuitry is configured to maintain a plurality of mappings, each of said mappings respectively correlating data stored in said cache memory with one of said memory addresses of said computer memory, said memory control circuitry further configured to maintain a bit of information that is associated with one of said mappings, said memory control circuitry configured to assert said bit when a data value correlated with a computer memory address via said one mapping is utilized to execute an instruction of said one program, said memory control circuitry further configured to deassert said bit periodically.

5. (Original) The system of claim 4, wherein said memory control circuitry is further configured to determine, in response to said second context switch command and based on said bit, whether said data value was recently utilized by said processing circuitry to execute an instruction prior to said first context switch.

6. (Original) The system of claim 5, wherein said memory control circuitry is further configured to store said mappings and said bit to said computer memory in response to said first context switch command and to retrieve said mappings and said bit from said computer memory in response to said second context switch command.

7. (Currently Amended) A computer system for efficiently executing instructions of computer programs, comprising:

processing circuitry having a pipeline, said pipeline configured to execute instructions from one of a plurality of programs, said processing circuitry configured to stop executing said one program during a first context switch in response to a first context switch command and to resume executing said one program during a second context switch in response to a second context switch command;

cache memory;

computer memory having a plurality of addresses; and

memory control circuitry coupled to said processing circuitry, said memory control circuitry configured to maintain a plurality of mappings, said mappings respectively correlating at least one data value previously written by said pipeline during execution of an instruction and stored in said cache memory with said memory addresses of said computer memory, said memory control circuitry configured to store in said computer memory said mappings and information indicating whether said ~~cache memory corresponding to said mappings at least one data value~~ was recently accessed in response to said first context switch command and to make a determination, based on said information, whether said information indicates that said at least one data value was recently accessed prior to the first context switch, said memory control circuitry further configured to ~~retrieve said data values from said addresses that are identified by said mappings stored in said computer memory in response to~~

~~said second context switch command, based upon said information based upon said information, said memory control circuitry further configured to store in said cache memory said retrieved data values~~preload, into said cache memory, said at least one data value based on said determination if said information indicates that said at least one data value was recently accessed prior to said first context switch.

8. (Original) The system of claim 7, wherein said processing circuitry is further configured to execute instructions of another of said computer programs in response to said first context switch command.

9. (Canceled).

10. (Currently Amended) The system of claim ~~[[9]]~~7, wherein said memory control circuitry is further configured to store said ~~utilization data~~information in said computer memory in response to said first context switch command and to retrieve said ~~utilization data~~information and said mappings in response to said second context switch command.

11. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 9, wherein said ~~utilization data is~~information has a plurality of bits respectively associated with said mappings, wherein said memory control circuitry, for each data value accessed by said memory control circuitry, is configured to assert the bit associated with the mapping that correlates said each data value with one of said computer memory addresses, and wherein said memory control circuitry is configured to periodically deassert each of said plurality of bits.

12. (Currently Amended) A method for efficiently executing instructions of computer programs, comprising the steps of:

executing a plurality of computer programs in an interleaved fashion;
switching which of said computer programs is being executed in said executing step;
storing, prior to said switching step, at an address in computer memory a data value previously written by a pipeline to a cache line in execution of an instruction corresponding to one of said computer programs in said executing step and information-an indicator
~~indicative of~~indicating if the cache line was recently accessed ~~how often said cache line is~~
~~accessed during execution;~~

identifying said address in response to said switching step;
determining, based on said indicator, whether the data value was recently accessed
prior to said switching step;

retrieving, based on said determining step, said data value from said address based on
said identifying step and in response to said switching step if said indicator indicates that the
data was recently accessed~~based upon said information indicative of how often said cache~~
~~memory is accessed; and~~

storing said retrieved data value in cache memory; ~~and~~

~~retrieving said data value from said cache memory in response to said executing step.~~

13. (Original) The method of claim 12, wherein said executing step further includes the step of executing instructions of a computer program in response to said switching step, and wherein said method further comprises the steps of:

determining that said address is storing a data value previously utilized in said
executing step to execute an instruction of said computer program; and
performing said identifying step based on said determining step.

14. (Original) The method of claim 12, further comprising the steps of:
correlating, respectively, data values stored in said cache memory with addresses of
said computer memory;

asserting a bit each time a data value correlated with said address identified in
said identifying step is accessed in response to said executing step; and
periodically deasserting said bit.

15. (Original) The method of claim 14, wherein said executing step further
includes the step of executing instructions of a computer program in response to said
switching step, and wherein said method further comprises the steps of:

determining, based on said bit, that said address identified in said identifying step is
storing a data value previously utilized in said executing step to execute an instruction of said
computer program; and

performing said identifying step based on said determining step.

16. (Currently Amended) A method for efficiently executing instructions of
computer programs, comprising the steps of:

executing instructions from a computer program;

halting said executing step during a first context switch in response to a first context
switch command;

resuming said executing step during a second context switch in response to a second
context switch command;

maintaining a plurality of mappings;

correlating, via said mappings, data values previously written by a pipeline during the executing step and stored in a cache memory with memory addresses of computer memory outside of said cache memory;

storing said mappings in said computer memory in response to said first context switch command and information indicative of whether said ~~cache memory storing said data values~~ [[was-]]were accessed during a particular time period prior to said first context switch;

selecting, based on said information and for preloading into the cache memory in response to the second context switch command, at least one data value from at least one of said addresses identified by said mappings; and

retrieving, based on said mappings and ~~said information and in response to said second context switch command~~selecting step, said at least one data value ~~from at least one of said addresses identified by said mappings~~in response to said second context switch command if said information indicates that said at least one data value was accessed during said particular time period; and

storing said at least one retrieved data value in said cache memory.

17. (Canceled).

18. (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~[[47]]~~16, further comprising the steps of:

storing said ~~utilization data~~information in said computer memory in response to said first context switch command; and

retrieving said ~~utilization data~~information and said mappings in response to said second context switch command.

19. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 17, wherein said ~~utilization data~~is information has a plurality of bits respectively associated with said mappings, and wherein said method further comprises the steps of:

asserting each of said bits associated respectively with each of said mappings that identifies a data value accessed in response to said executing step; and

periodically deasserting each of said bits.

20. (Currently Amended) A computer system for efficiently executing instructions of computer programs, comprising:

computer memory; and

a processing unit comprising cache memory and logic configured to store in said computer memory a value indicative of whether a portion of said cache memory was recently accessed by said processor and a mapping associated with said value, said mapping indicative of a location in said computer memory storing data previously requested or previously written by an instruction of a first process being executed by the processing unit when the processing unit context switches out the first process for processing of a second process, the logic further configured to select said data for preloading in said cache memory after said second context switch if said value indicates that the data was recently accessed, retrieve said data based on said value and store said data in said cache if said value indicates that the data was recently accessed, said processing unit continuing execution of said first process with the retrieved data when the processing unit context switches out the second process and context switches in the first process.

21. (Currently Amended) A method for efficiently executing instructions of computer programs, comprising the steps of:

~~storing in memory outside of a processing unit a value indicative of how often whether data in~~ cache memory ~~is was~~ recently accessed by said a processing unit~~processor;~~

storing in said memory a mapping corresponding to said value, said mapping indicative of a location in computer memory storing said data ~~previously requested or previously written by an instruction of a first process being executed by the processing unit~~ when the processing unit context switches out the first process for processing of a second process;

~~retrieving said data, based upon said value, when the processing unit context switches out the second process and context switches in the first process;~~

determining whether said data was recently accessed prior to said processing unit switching out the first process;

preloading, based on said determining step, said data in said cache for execution of said first process by said processing unit if said value indicates that the data was recently accessed in said determining step, and

~~continuing execution of said first process with the data retrieved in the retrieving step.~~

22. (Currently Amended) The system of claim ~~[[20]]~~21, wherein said cache memory comprises a cache line.

23. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 22, wherein said value is indicative of whether said processing unit has accessed said cache line during a particular time period.

24. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 23, wherein said value indicative of said cache memory usage is defined by a flag, said logic configured to assert said flag when said first process uses said cache line.

25. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 21, wherein said cache memory comprises a cache line.

26. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 25, wherein said value is indicative of whether said processing unit has accessed said cache line during a particular time period.

27. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 25, further comprising the step of asserting a flag when said first process uses said cache line.

28. (Canceled).

29. (Canceled).

30. (Currently Amended) A system, comprising:

computer memory; and

a processing unit comprising cache memory, said cache memory comprising a plurality of cache lines storing data written or read by a first process during execution by said processing unit, said processing unit further comprising logic configured to ~~track an usage frequency~~periodically assert one of a plurality of flags associated with each of said cache lines when said flag's associated cache line is accessed~~of said cache line~~, said logic further configured to store in said computer memory a ~~value indicative of whether the cache line was accessed and said flags and~~ to store in memory a mapping associated with said data corresponding to the associated cache lines used from said cache line accessed by said first process upon a first context switch, said logic further configured to select data for preloading into the cache memory based upon the asserted flags in response to a said data into said cache ~~upon a second context switch based on said information.~~